

What Is Claimed Is:

1. Apparatus for monitoring a space, comprising:
a security panel located at the space, said security panel having a plurality of sensors; and
5 a monitoring system for receiving real time information regarding the space from the security panel over a network using a network protocol, said monitoring system including a graphic interface to display said information as multistate outputs associated with each of said plurality of sensors.
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2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the network is an Ethernet network.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring
15 system includes encapsulated communications programs.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information is received using a standard Internet browser.
- 20 5. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information is displayed using a bitmap representation of said space, with icons overlaid on said bitmap to identify said sensors and their status.
- 25 6. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information is displayed using an icon on a display to represent a condition of each sensor.

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7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said condition can be any of said multistate outputs, at least a first of said multistate outputs being an indication that a sensor is in an alarm condition, a second of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor was recently in an alarm condition, and a third of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor is not in an alarm condition.

8. Apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein said condition can further be an indication that said sensor has been disabled.

9. Apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein said condition can further be an indication that said sensor has been failed.

10. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein monitoring of said display can distinguish false alarms from genuine alarms.

11. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein monitoring of said display can be used to track sequential activation of said sensors, yet provide information regarding the most recent sensor placed into an alarm condition.

12. Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:
a remote monitoring system which can access said information.

13. Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:
a mobile computer which can access said information.

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14. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information can be displayed as a hierarchy of display screens, with at least one level of said hierarchy of screen displays showing multiple facilities being monitored, and with at least one additional level of said hierarchy providing access to floor plans for any of said facilities.

15. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said mobile computer includes:

means for accessing information contained within said security panel via use of an encrypted address message broadcast by at least one of said mobile computer and said security panel.

16. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said mobile computer accesses said information via a wireless network.

17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said wireless network includes a cellular telephone network.

18. Apparatus for monitoring a space, comprising:
a security panel located at the space; and
a supervisory monitoring system for receiving real time information regarding the space from the security panel monitoring system over a network, said monitoring system including a graphic interface to display information that distinguishes false alarms from actual alarms.

19. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the network is an Ethernet network.

20. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the monitoring system includes encapsulated communications programs.

21. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information is received using a standard Internet browser.

22. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information is displayed using a bitmap representation of said space, with icons overlaid on said bitmap to identify said sensors and their status.

23. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information is displayed using an icon on a display to represent a condition of each sensor.

24. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said condition can be any one of multistate outputs, at least a first of said multistate outputs being an indication that a sensor is in an alarm condition, a second of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor was recently in an alarm condition, and a third of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor is not in an alarm condition.

25. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein monitoring of said display can be used to track sequential activation of said sensors, yet provide information regarding the most recent sensor placed into an alarm condition.

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26. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said information can be displayed as a hierarchy of display screens, with at least one level of said hierarchy of screen displays showing multiple facilities being monitored, and with at least one additional level of said hierarchy providing access to floor plans for any of said facilities.

27. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said supervisory monitoring system is a mobile computer which includes:
means for accessing information contained within said security panel via use of an encrypted address message broadcast by at least one of said mobile computer and said security panel.

28. Method for monitoring a space, comprising the steps:
locally monitoring outputs from a plurality of sensors located at the space; and
transmitting information associated with a status of said sensors, in real time, over a network using a network protocol, to a supervisory monitoring system, said information representing multistate outputs associated with each of said plurality of sensors.

29. Method according to claim 28, wherein said information is transmitted using encapsulated communications programs and a standard Internet browser.

30. Method according to claim 28, wherein said information transmitted to said supervisory monitoring system is displayed at the

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supervisory monitoring system using a bitmap representation of said space, with icons overlaid on said bitmap to identify said sensors and their status.

31. Method according to claim 30, wherein a status of each of said sensors is constituted by any one of multistate outputs, at least a first of said multistate outputs being an indication that a sensor is in an alarm condition, a second of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor was recently in an alarm condition, and a third of said multistate outputs being an indication that said sensor is not in an alarm condition.

32. Method according to claim 28, wherein said information can be displayed at said supervisory monitoring system as a hierarchy of display screens, with at least one level of said hierarchy of screen displays showing multiple facilities being monitored, and with at least one additional level of said hierarchy providing access to floor plans for any of said facilities.

33. Method according to claim 28, wherein said supervisory monitoring system is a mobile computer which accesses information contained within a security panel at said space via use of an encrypted address message broadcast by at least one of said mobile computer and said security panel.